

after 12 years as Quincy's mayor, Chuck Scholz is stepping down.

It was clear from his earliest days as mayor that Chuck Scholz was a leader. Days after he was sworn in, the Great Mississippi River Flood of 1993 deluged Quincy and many other towns up and down the Mississippi. Even when the flood waters made the bridges connecting Quincy to West Quincy, MO, impassable—leaving the region isolated—Chuck Scholz never panicked. He led a relief effort that brought together Federal, State, and local resources. After the flood waters receded, he worked with communities in three States to lay the foundation for cooperative economic development efforts that continue to this day. He turned destruction and despair into focused determination. His influence on Quincy is so positive and so pervasive that today, many of us cannot think of Quincy or western Illinois without thinking of Chuck Scholz.

Chuck is a compassionate public servant and a talented lawyer. He is also an avid Quincy historian. In 1994, he was able to relive an important chapter in Quincy's history when he welcomed President Abraham Lincoln to the city. Actually, it was a very convincing actor who was playing Lincoln in a re-creation of the famous 1860 Lincoln-Douglas Presidential debates in Quincy. The debate was covered live on C-SPAN.

Mayor Scholz also welcomed a living President to Quincy. Hours after President Bill Clinton delivered his final State of the Union Address in 2000, Air Force One touched down at Quincy's Baldwin Field, and President Clinton delivered a speech in Washington Park. That visit and so many other remarkable events—would not have happened without Mayor Scholz's leadership.

The Scholz administration leaves an impressive list of accomplishments, from lowering property taxes to improving city services and enhancing public safety. Working hard and in a bipartisan manner, Chuck Scholz has made the "Gem City" shine even brighter. Quincy is a more prosperous, more vibrant, more beautiful, and more hopeful place than when he first became mayor.

Chuck Scholz is proud of the sister city bonds he helped forge between Quincy and the cities of Hereford, Germany, and Jiaying, China. He has hosted Presidents, bishops, Supreme Court Justices, and dignitaries from many nations. But his favorite conversations have always been with Quincyans. He loves chatting with local grade school students and rewarding them for good grades with one of his famous red, white, and blue bookmarks.

Retiring as mayor will allow Chuck to spend more time with his wife Becky and his sons Charles and Jake. He will rediscover the law and maybe even spend a bit more time on the golf course or conducting the Quincy Park Band. But I know his service to his hometown will never stop.

As Chuck Scholz prepares to begin this next chapter in his life, I wish him well and I join many others in thanking him for 12 years of remarkable service to his community.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT ROCKY PAYNE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, it is with heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of SGT Rocky Payne, a soldier in the Army's 497th Transportation Group, who bravely gave his life in service to his country. Sergeant Rocky Payne, a native of Howell, UT, was killed on March 16, 2005, in an explosion created by a roadside bomb in the city of Baghdad. Sergeant Payne is a true hero who died defending his Nation and bringing freedom to an oppressed people.

Sergeant Payne's dream of being a soldier was fulfilled when he joined the Marines at the age of 20, serving 4 years. Shortly after the end of his enlistment with the Marines he joined the Army and was again sent to Iraq, this time as a gunner protecting the supply convoys that make our operations in Iraq possible. In honor of his dedication and service he was posthumously advanced to the rank of sergeant.

I have been told that as a young man SGT Payne exhibited an unusual ability to work with his hands. Old bicycles and electronics found new life under his determined resourcefulness. He restored an old rusty truck which hadn't run in years to working condition in only 2 days. Possessing the ability to play piano by ear, SGT Payne apparently could reconstruct a tune he had heard only once and play it on the piano. But it was when his hands were placed in the service of others that they did the most good. "He was a good, good person," his brother is reported as saying. "One of the kindest people you would ever come across." As a soldier SGT Payne fought bravely to ensure that the people of Iraq would one day enjoy freedom from oppression. "He loved serving," said his father in one newspaper story. "He honestly felt like he was helping the Iraqi people."

Sergeant Payne served his country with courage and honor and his loss is one that our entire country will share forever.

FREEDOM

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, this past weekend millions of Jews around the world celebrated the beginning of the Passover holiday. Gathered at Seder tables with family and friends, they commemorated the Israelites' exodus from Egypt almost 4,000 years ago.

Jewish law dictates, however, that the Jewish people must do more on Passover than merely remember their ancestors' time in bondage. They must strive to reenact the experience.

Using matzah and bitter herbs, the Seder is an endeavor to recreate the past. To literally taste the bitterness of slavery and the sweetness of freedom.

It is also an opportunity to sharpen awareness of an alarming yet oft-overlooked truth: that millions of men, women and children around the world are still enslaved and have yet to know freedom.

Ultimately the Passover Seder is a modern call to action. It reminds that until all people know the joy of freedom, none of us is truly free.

Many Jews use the Seder not only to celebrate the value of freedom, but to call attention to regions of the world where the spirit of slavery lives on in places like Darfur, Sudan.

For over 2 years now, the Darfur people have been terrorized by violence. Millions have been oppressed by threats of death and destruction. Meanwhile, untold numbers of refugees have fled across the scorched earth, seeking refuge from their taskmasters.

The genocide that rages on in Darfur is a modern derivative of slavery. With the support of the Khartoum Government, Janjaweed militia groups commit mass looting, raping and violence inspired by ethnic hatred.

A recent analysis by the coalition for International Justice indicates that nearly 400,000 civilians have died since the conflict began 2 years ago. Over 140,000 have been killed by Sudanese Government forces. And an estimated 250,000 Darfur civilians have perished from disease and starvation stemming from displacement.

Recently, there has also been a disturbing trend of intimidation directed at aid workers in the region. The Red Cross reports that attacks on aid convoys in Darfur have increased in recent weeks. And last month, a USAID worker was intentionally shot point blank in an attempt to thwart humanitarian efforts and spread fear and intimidation.

Having personally visited the refugee camps on the Chad-Sudan border and met with survivors, I know that millions of our brothers and sisters are still crushed under the yoke of slavery and fear. Millions of them still do not know what it means to be free.

Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel recently commented that "All are entitled to live with dignity and hope. All are entitled to live without fear and pain. Not to assist Sudan's victims today would for me be unworthy of what I have learned from my teachers, my ancestors and my friends, namely that God alone is alone: His creatures must not be."

We must reject this form of slavery by oppression. We must stop the killings. The death toll will only rise without immediate, convincing and unified intervention by the international community.

It is our obligation as free people to bring hope and banish repression.

And it is my belief that we should use the message shared by the Passover